

# Media Guide 2022

 **wtm**<sup>®</sup>  
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7-9 November 2022

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# Welcome Letter

Dear media - welcome to **World Travel Market London 2022!**

We're thrilled to welcome you back to this 42nd World Travel Market London. While the industry has been subject to significant disruption over the past two years, returning here - together - at ExCel London, is testament to the sector's resilience and strength.

A post-pandemic world has revealed exciting new opportunities, trends and innovations - following a time when we asked ourselves – how do we rebuild differently, and how do we prepare ourselves for the future of travel and tourism?

To many of us, it's a huge relief to see consumer momentum return, while there have also been some logistical challenges related to infrastructure and staffing.

World Travel Market brings together the global travel and tourism community to explore, discover and shape its future, and ultimately, facilitate business connections for the global travel and tourism sector.

There is so much on offer over the next three days; a packed conference programme with 250 speakers to inspire and facilitate learning, exhibitor announcements, events and entertainment, and networking opportunities galore.

This Media Guide combines important information about press conferences, exhibitor events and press releases, and lists company executives and CEOs available for media interviews. You will also find the Interview Wall schedule along with other practical information to help make your time at WTM as productive as possible. Finally, don't forget to download the WTM App, which contains onsite information and also enables meetings and matchmaking.

To download printable press photos of conference sessions, stands, ministers' summit etc, access the WTM Media Library here: <https://wtm.mediafiler.net/wtm/start/index>



## Media Breakfast

Monday 7th November, 09:30 - 10:00

Location: area next to the Future Stage

Join the World Travel Market London Press Team for continental breakfast and a chance to network before the official opening press conference. Media badge holders only.

## Media Centre—Located at ME670

The Media Centre is the exclusive area for anyone with a media badge, serving as a base and focal point. Here's what you need to know about the Media Centre this year.

### Opening Times:

- Monday 7th November - 09:00-18:00
- Tuesday 8th November - 08:00-18:00
- Wednesday 9th November - 08:00-18:00
- Please bring your own laptop and charger, as no computers will be available.
- Cloakrooms are located at N2, N11 and Level 0 between N4 & S4 at car park level, or on the walkway to Prince Regent DLR. Please note, that there is no cloakroom or storage area in the Media Centre.
- Water, tea and coffee will be available



## Media Diary of Events 2022

### World Travel Market Opening Ceremony: Hugh Jones, CEO, RX and Saudi Arabia

Date: 7th November  
Time: 8:45  
Location: West Entrance



## Available for Interviews



### Spain

For interviews: Very limited interview opportunities with Spain's Tourism Minister, Reyes Maroto (register interest via [spain@wearelotus.co.uk](mailto:spain@wearelotus.co.uk))

### Japan National Tourism Organization

Available for Interview: Matthew Joslin, Senior Marketing and Communications Manager  
Location: Stand AS800  
Date: 7th November  
PR Contact: Ms. Ceile Brown – Black Diamond - [ceile@blackdiamond.co.uk](mailto:ceile@blackdiamond.co.uk)

### Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau

Date: 7th November  
Time: 12:00 – 16:00  
Location: South Gallery Room No 20

Minister of Tourism, Sri Lanka - Hon. Harin Fernando  
High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in London – H.E. Mrs. Saroja Sirisena  
Chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism - Mr. Chalaka Gajabahu  
Travel agent associations, tour operators, MICE tourism representatives etc

**Contact:**

Sarangi Thilakasena  
[sarangi@srilanka.travel](mailto:sarangi@srilanka.travel)



## Press Receptions – Events

7th November

### Greek Breakfast

**Media and travel professionals are welcome to join the Visit Greece team at their stand for a glimpse of the “Greek breakfast”.**

Date: 7th November  
 Time: from 10:00 – 11:00  
 Location: Stand EU1100-1150  
 Contact: Panos Papadopoulos, pr@gnto.co.uk

### Tourism Malaysia Pavilion- Grand Opening

**Ribbon cutting ceremony with Malaysian dancers in traditional costume.**

Date: 7th November  
 Time: from 10:00  
 Location: Stand AS700  
 Contact: Hannah Filer – hannah@athousandwords.info

**Agent Giveaway:** How many grains of rice makes a bowlful? Visit Stand AS700 on Mon/Tues/Wed to be in with a chance of winning.

This year at WTM, Tourism Malaysia will be joined by acclaimed chef, Norman Musa. His new cookery book, Bowlful, celebrates Malaysia’s fresh and diverse flavours with 90 easy to follow recipes. Visitors to the stand will be able to guess how many grains of rice are in the glass bowl and those with the closest guesses will win a prize. Prizes include:

- 1st Prize - Trip to Malaysia
- 2nd Prize - Dinner in a London Malaysian restaurant
- 3rd Prize - signed copy of Bowlful.

### Shakespeare in Veneto

Theatrical intervention consisting of five scenes in dialogue, lasting 3-4 minutes each, with enhancement of the Veneto territory through the Shakespeare plays set in the Veneto Region:

OTHELLO, THE MOOR OF VENICE, Venice  
 THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, Venice and Treviso  
 THE TAMING OF THE SHREW, Padua  
 ROMEO & JULIET, Verona and Vicenza  
 THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA, Lake Garda

The intervention consists in the dialogue of two actors in the adaptation that emphasizes the reference territory. The five scenes will be repeated twice throughout the day.

Date: 7th November  
 Time: 12:00 - 13:00 and 16:00 – 17:00  
 Location: Veneto stand EU250  
 Contact: Laura Vendramin, lauravendramin@regione.veneto.it

## EGYPT TOURISM 2022-2023- VISION AND STRATEGY

A delicious brunch just prior to the press conference by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Issa, Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, H.E. Sherif Kamel, Ambassador of the A.R.E. (Arab Republic of Egypt) and Mr. Amr El-Kady, CEO of Egyptian Tourism Authority

Date: 7th November  
 Time: 12:15  
 Location: South Gallery Room SG24  
 Contact: Mr. Mohamed Ismael info@gotoegypt.org

To register your attendance, please RSVP to sarah.lloydmorrisson@finnpartners.com by 4th November 2022.

## Kyrgyz Republic Presentation

### Reasons to visit Kyrgyz Republic

- The Kyrgyz Republic lies on the Great Silk Road
- The second reason is our values of nomadic culture
- The third reason is the unique nature and celestial mountains

Date: 7th November  
 Time: from 13:30  
 Location: Stand number AS640  
 Contact: Kairat Itibaev  
 Managing Director on International Relations and Investments  
 k.itibaev@fundtourism.com

## Post-Press Conference Networking Reception on the Visit Greece stand

Media professionals are welcome to join the Visit Greece team at their stand for a glass of a Greek wine following the Greek Minister's Press Conference at the Media Centre at 13:30

Date: 7th November  
 Time: from 14:30 – 15:30  
 Location: Stand EU1100-1150  
 Contact: Panos Papadopoulos, pr@gnto.co.uk

## Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau (TCVB) will be holding two different seminars with travel professionals on board, on November 7th at 2:00pm (for travel agencies) and 3:30pm (for media) in the Tokyo stand.

We know that it has been difficult to get the most up-to-date information about Tokyo. In the seminar, we'll be discussing Tokyo as a tourist destination pre/after the pandemic and share our observations with you. Join us, and re-discover the ever-exciting, ever-changing attractions of Japan's capital city! Anyone may take part, as long as there is an open seat in the stand!

Title Rediscover Tokyo Seminar: for Travel Agencies  
 Date: 7th November  
 Time: 14:00 – 15:00  
 Location: Tokyo Stand AS840  
 Contact: Ms. Manami Miyazaki,  
 miyazaki5831@jtbc.com.co.jp

Title: Rediscover Tokyo Seminar: for the Media  
 Date: 7th November  
 Time: 15:30 – 16:30  
 Location: Tokyo Stand AS840  
 Contact: Ms. Manami Miyazaki,  
 miyazaki5831@jtbc.com.co.jp

## Presentation on Current Tourism by Tokyo Tourism Rep, UK

During the pandemic, the typical images of a metropolis, such as 'busy' and 'crowded', had suddenly become negative factors for tourists so Tokyo Tourism tried to avoid associating our city with those words and emphasise the city's hygiene control, new contactless devices, nature, etc. to potential future visitors. However, we were often reminded that people were still looking for the old familiar Tokyo - the exciting, colourful, lively city that they knew before the pandemic. In this seminar, we would like to show the audience that Tokyo in people's imagination is still (and much more) there, and to suggest the best way to enjoy the city in this new age. Additionally, the seminar includes a workshop in which those interested can enjoy a Tokyo culture experience. Anyone may take part, as long as there is an open seat in the stand!

Date and Time: 8th November 12:00 -13:00 and 15:00 – 16:00 / 9th November 12:00 – 13:00

Location: Tokyo Stand AS840

Contact: Ms. Manami Miyazaki, miyazaki5831@jtbc.com.co.jp

## Saudi Arabia

There will be cultural activities on the stand throughout the three days including folklore dancers, traditional crafts from across the country and in celebration of Saudi year of coffee. There will plenty of Saudi coffee to savour with some of the best dates you will ever taste. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining one of our upcoming FAM trips to email [sta@consulum.com](mailto:sta@consulum.com)

## Vervotech Product Presentation

Date: 7th – 9th November

Location: Stand TT626

Contact: Mr. Anurag Mittal, [anurag@vervotech.com](mailto:anurag@vervotech.com)

## 8th November

### Rail Europe

Press breakfast with Rail Europe President & CEO

Date: 8th November

Time: 10:30

Location: Stand No. IH118

## Sustainable Spain: Sustainability Standards for Spanish Destinations and Hoteliers

A panel session which features major UK tour operators and airlines which focuses on sustainability standards for Spanish suppliers (this session is targeted particularly at Spanish tourism delegates).

\*Very limited interview opportunities with Spain's Tourism Minister.

Date: 8th November

Time 11:00

Location: Stand EU700

Contact: [spain@wearelotus.co.uk](mailto:spain@wearelotus.co.uk)

### Wanderlust Awards - Recognition of the most sustainable tour operators to Spain.

Join nominated tour operators to find out who will be crowned Spain's most sustainable tour operator.

Date: 8th November

Time 12:00 – 12:15

Location: Stand EU700

Contact: [spain@wearelotus.co.uk](mailto:spain@wearelotus.co.uk)



## Light Up the Future – Taipei Media Salon

According to Kantar’s 2021 survey on UK tourism willingness to travel, 16% of UK travellers plan to travel to Asia, the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government looks to reignite interest from visitors from Europe to uncover the many cultural, nature-based and gourmet experiences in Taipei.

The key highlight for Taipei’s travel itineraries will be the Taiwan Lantern Festival to be held in Taipei in 2023. With “Light Up the Future” as the main theme, the city will be launching new experiences and products designed specifically for travelers from the European market.

The Taiwan Lantern Festival has been recognized as one of the best festivals in the world by the Discovery Channel and has recently been selected as one of the 10 heritage night vistas at The World Night View Summit held in Japan. The 2023 Taiwan Lantern Festival in Taipei will combine top - notch technology with traditional culture to give visitors an unforgettable visual and interactive experience.

\*Photo opportunity – Light Up the FUTURE ceremony

Date: 8th November

Time 11:00

Location: Taipei City Government Booth (AS755)

Contact: Ms. Cynthia Chang [cynthia.chang@jcim.com.hk](mailto:cynthia.chang@jcim.com.hk)

## Sustainability focused event on the Visit Greece stand

Led by an Eleni Skarveli, Director of GNTO UK & Ireland office, the event will outline sustainable Greek tourism initiatives focusing on the proactive actions presented by representatives of the islands of Astypalea, Naxos and Halki and the ECTAA. Followed by the presentations the newly launched GNTO platform “Sustainable Greece” will be presented to the attendees.

Date: 8th November

Time 12:00 – 12:30

Location: Stand EU1100 (& EU1150) events

Contact: Panos Papadopoulos, [pr@gnto.co.uk](mailto:pr@gnto.co.uk)

## Malaysia

### Cookery Demonstration my Chef Norman Musa

Born in Penang, Malaysia, Norman moved to the United Kingdom in 1994 to study. His first restaurant was opened in Manchester in 2006 and York in 2012, followed by two more in Malaysia in 2014 and 2016. In 2010, Norman joined the Formula One Lotus team travelling around the world to cook for the team. He was featured in Masterchef Malaysia, BBC’s Tom Kerridge Best Ever Dishes and Channel 4’s Sunday Brunch and has been in numerous magazines in UK and Malaysia. His new cookbook ‘BOWLFUL- Fresh and Vibrant dishes from Southeast Asia’ is due out on 13 Oct 2022. Join Chef Norman as he creates his own twist on some classic Malaysian dishes.

Date: 8th November

Time 12:30

Location: AS700

Contact: Hannah Filer – [hannah@athousandwords.info](mailto:hannah@athousandwords.info)







## Press Conference 2022

### WTM Media Breakfast

Monday 7th November at 09:30 – 10:00

Next to the Future Stage.

Join the WTM London Press Team for continental breakfast and a chance to network

Open to media badge holders only.

For media enquiries:

Maria Tilev maria.tilev@rxglobal.com

### Industry Report

Monday 7th November at 10:00 – 11:00

WTM London unveils the WTM London Industry Report

Moderated by: Peter Nunn

Location: Media Centre

For media enquiries: Maria Tilev, maria.tilev@rxglobal.com

### Indonesia Press Conference

Date and time: 7th November; 11:30 – 12:30

Location: Media Centre

Indonesia's participation in WTM London 2022 supports the ongoing campaign to reopen the country's tourism industry to foreign visitors, which began in February 2022. Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno, the Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia, will provide the most recent information on the state of Indonesian tourism at this press conference. He will discuss the most recent changes to the Visa on Arrival policy, super-priority destinations, and other tourism initiatives and projects like Indonesia Spice Up the World, tourism villages, long stay, quality tourism, and environmental concerns.

Speaker:

H.E. Mr. Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno

(The Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Republic of Indonesia)

Contact:

Tringsasi Agus Rini (Ms.) / Dini Mariska (Ms.) – E-mail: europe1@indonesia.travel

Phone number: +62 21 383 8353 / +62 816 1122 052 (Ms. Rini) / +62 858 9407 4235 (Ms. Mariska)

### Sri Lanka Press Conference – Invitation Only

Sri Lanka Tourism Official Press Conference at WTM 2022 will be held at South Gallery Room No. 20, on November 7, 2022, at 12.00pm onwards. Winter promotional strategy and destination branding for 2023 will be revealed along with latest developments of the country during the press.

Speakers:

Minister of Tourism, Sri Lanka - Hon. Harin Fernando

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in London – H.E. Mrs. Saroja Sirisena

Chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism - Mr. Chalaka Gajabahu

Contact:

Sarangi Thilakasena

sarangi@srilanka.travel

## SPAIN'S TOURISM UPDATE (SPANISH LANGUAGE)

7th November, 12:00  
 Location: Stand EU700

Spain's Tourism Minister, Reyes Maroto, will reflect on tourism to Spain in 2022 looking specifically at the post-COVID context and discuss Spain's tourism strategy for 2023 and beyond, encompassing key indicators of sustainability.

This event will be in Spanish.  
 Speaker: Spain's Tourism Minister, Reyes Maroto  
 Contact: Kate McWilliams, [spain@wearelotus.co.uk](mailto:spain@wearelotus.co.uk)

## EGYPT TOURISM 2022-2023- VISION AND STRATEGY

7th November, 12:30  
 Location: South Gallery Room SG24

### Vision and strategy for the coming period and news on events and developments

Speakers:  
 H.E. Mr. Ahmed Issa, Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities  
 H.E. Sherif Kamel, Ambassador of the A.R.E.(Arab Republic of Egypt)  
 Mr. Amr El-Kady, CEO of Egyptian Tourism Authority

Contact: Mr. Mohamed Ismael, [info@gotoegypt.org](mailto:info@gotoegypt.org)

To register your attendance, please RSVP to [sarah.lloyd-morrison@finnpartners.com](mailto:sarah.lloyd-morrison@finnpartners.com) by 4th November 2022.

## Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority Press Conference

7th November, 12:30  
 Location: Stand ME400

Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) is delighted to welcome you to our stand (ME400) on Monday, 7th November 2022 at 12:30 for a chance to learn more about Ras Al Khaimah's Balanced Tourism approach. Raki Phillips, CEO of RAKTDA, will introduce the new and holistic approach that puts environment, culture, conservation, and liveability at the core of the Emirate's central investment and development strategy.

"Balanced Tourism takes sustainability beyond a ban on single use plastics to drive growth while protecting biodiversity, communities, culture, and environment - and it's a model that will work anywhere.", says Phillips.

Known as the Nature Emirate, Ras Al Khaimah is located 45 minutes from Dubai International airport, boasting soaring mountains, dense mangroves and 64km (40 mi) of pristine beach. These natural assets - overlooked by Jebel Jais, the highest peak in the UAE - both underpin and epitomise the Emirate's tourism principles: promoted but protected, enjoyed but respected. Under the Balanced Tourism model, more than 20 new sustainable tourism projects - also known as Attractions with Purpose - are being built across the Emirate including Earth Hotel Altitude, an eco-based pop-up hotel concept, and Saij, A Mantis Collection Mountain Lodge, comprising of 70 luxury lodges, that will provide a pure mountain retreat.

Join us on the first day of the World Travel Market to find out more about the latest developments in the tourism sector of Ras Al Khaimah, a nature-driven destination of sprawling deserts, beaches, and stunning mountain landscapes.

For all media enquiries and to arrange an interview with the CEO, please contact: [RAKTDA@prm-global.com](mailto:RAKTDA@prm-global.com)

## Visit Greece Press Conference

Date and time: 7th November; 13:30 – 14:30

Location: Media Centre

Minister of Tourism Mr. Vassilis Kikilias will present the latest updates from Greece with a re-cap of 2022 and a projection towards 2023 on introducing winter flights for Greek islands, followed by a panel discussion representing the Visit Greece key strategic pillars.

Speaker: Minister of Tourism for Greece, Vassilis Kikilias

Contact: Panos Papadopoulos, pr@gnto.co.uk, 2074959311

## 8th November

### Balearic Islands: a case study in responsible tourism

8th November, 10:30

Location: Stand EU500

An overview of the results of the Balearic Islands' law of excesses and its ambitious tourism strategy, followed by a panel discussion between the individual island representatives (Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza, Formentera)

Speaker: Iago Neurula, Tourism Minister

PR Contact: Kate McWilliams, balearicislands@wearelotus.co.uk

### Exclusive Slovenia Press Conferences – Invitation only

8th November, 11:00 and 13:00

Location: Stand EU1500

Having established itself as one of Europe's leading green destinations, Slovenia will be hosting two intimate press conferences during this year's World Travel Market looking at the future of responsible and outdoor tourism.

The press conferences will take place at the Slovenia stand (EU1500) at 11am and 1pm on the 8th of November. In collaboration with the Julian Alps region, both conferences will discuss the 'living room' tourism concept, which reflects the belief that tourism destinations should offer the same sense of place as a living room, and that mutual trust between local people and respectful travellers leads to uniquely special travel experiences.

Invitation only.

Speakers:

Klemen Langus, Director of Tourism Bohinj  
 Representatives from the Slovenian Tourist Board

Contact: Leia Gill, leia@welcometoama.com



## Maldives Media Meet - Press Conference by Visit Maldives

Date and time: 8th November; 11:30 – 12:30

Location: Media Centre

Attend the special Maldives Press Conference to discover fifty years, and beyond, of tourism in the Maldives. Our experience over the past fifty years is a tenacious tale of overcoming innumerable odds. Our golden sunshine, luminous beaches, and turquoise seas, together with our unparalleled hospitality, is our open invitation to the world.

Speakers:

Dr. Abdulla Mausoom, Minister of Tourism

Mr. Thoyyib Mohamed, CEO & Managing Director of Visit Maldives

Her Excellency Dr Farah Faizal, High Commissioner of the Maldives to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Mr. Hussain Afeef, Pioneer of Maldives Tourism Industry

Contact:

1. Susana Raposeiro

PR Account Manager

susana@slcrepresentation.com

2. Safa Musthafa

Assistant Manager

Safa@visitmaldives.com

## Jordan Press Conference

Date and time: 8th November; 13:00 – 14:00

Location: Media Centre

Join us at the WTM Media Centre to hear from the team at the Jordan Tourism board including the Tourism Minister, H.E. Nayef Al Fayed and Dr. Abed Al Razzaq Arabiyat, Managing Director. The team will update on the latest developments in Jordan, including the launch of the upcoming Wizz Air flight from London Luton to Amman.

Speakers:

H.E. Nayef Al Fayed, Tourism Minister

Dr. Abed Al Razzaq Arabiyat, Managing Director

## TOURISM MALAYSIA WTM PRESS CONFERENCE 2022

Date and time: 8th November; 14:30 -15:30

Location: Media Centre

Malaysian Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture Malaysia, Dato' Sri Nancy Shukri will provide updates on the destination's tourism strategy for 2023 and beyond, and also introduce the destination's new advertising video.

A Special Guest will then host a Q&A with Dato' Sri Nancy Shukri, focusing on Malaysia's National Tourism Policy's commitment to sustainability, with a focus on ecotourism, rural and experiential tourism, and community-based tourism. Open to all media. Refreshments and high tea served after. [www.tourism.gov.my](http://www.tourism.gov.my)

Speaker:

Malaysian Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture Malaysia, Dato' Sri Nancy Shukri

Contact: Hannah Filer (07796277862) ,[hannah@athousandwords.info](mailto:hannah@athousandwords.info)

## Let's live fully in Viet Nam!

Date and time: 8th November; 16:00 – 17 :00

Location: Media Centre

In recent years, Vietnam has been known as an increasingly attractive tourist destination for international visitors because of its diversity in tourism, unique nature and culture as well as kind and friendly people. From the beginning of 2022 until now, Vietnam's tourism sector has been honored and proud to surpass dozens of Asian candidates to receive various top prizes awarded by the World Travel Awards.

In order to give more information about Vietnam's tourism products to the international media and create opportunities for them to meet and have deep discussions at the World Travel Market London 2022 (WTM London), Vietnam Tourism Development Fund, in collaboration with the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism and the Vietnamese Embassy in the UK, organize a program for introducing Vietnam's tourism within the trade show.

### Speakers:

Dr. Abdulla Mausoom, Minister of Tourism

Mr. Thoyyib Mohamed, CEO & Managing Director of Visit Maldives

Her Excellency Dr Farah Faizal, High Commissioner of the Maldives  
to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Mr.Hussain Afeef, Pioneer of Maldives Tourism Industry

### Contact:

Ms. Nguyễn Thị Thu Nhân

Tourism Marketing Department

Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT)

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MOCST)

Email: thunhanvnat@gmail.com

Mobile: +84.962.018.359

## Interview Wall

### Monday 7th November

11:00 – 11:30	<b>Juliette Losardo</b> - Exhibition Director for WTM London
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Vasyl Zhygalo</b> , Portfolio Director, IBTM and WTM
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Karin Urban</b> , Non- Executive Director, European Tourism Association - ETOA
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Fahd Hamidaddin</b> , Saudi Tourism Authority, CEO
13:00 – 13:30	<b>Talal Kensara</b> - Chief of Strategic Management, Diriyah Gate Development Authority
13:30 – 14:00	<b>Ms. Chuen-Huey Jiang</b> , Senior Specialist
14:00 – 14:30	<b>Juliette Losardo</b> – Exhibitor Director for WTM London
14:30 – 15: 00	<b>Raki Phillips</b> , CEO of Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority
15:00 – 15:30	Deputy Prime Minister, <b>The Honourable I. Chester Cooper</b> , Minister of Tourism, Investments and Aviation, The Commonwealth of Bahamas



## Interview Wall

### Tuesday 8th November

10:00 – 10:30	<b>Gonzalo Baselga</b> , Regional Director of Sales, Europe <b>Alejandra Marino</b> , Director of Sales, Riu Plaza London Victoria
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Konstantinos Triantafyllis</b> , Marketing & PR Director, Metaxa Hospitality (Creta Maris Beach Resort)
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Gwénaëlle Delos</b> , Atout France - Director UK & Ireland
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Zsófia Jakab</b> , Deputy CEO of Hungarian Tourism Agency
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Fletch Brunelle</b> , Vice President of Marketing, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Dato' Sri Nancy Shukri</b> , Malaysian Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture Malaysia
13:00 – 13:30	<b>Fatima Al Sairafi</b> , Bahrain Minister of Tourism
14:00 – 14:30	<b>Juliette Losardo</b> – Exhibitor Director for WTM London
14:30 – 15:00	<b>Helen ter Beek</b> - Senior Director Commercial & Operations, Choice Hotels EMEA
15:00 – 15:30	<b>John Pagano</b> , Red Sea Global, Chief Executive Officer
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Michaela Rugwizangoga</b> , Chief Tourism Officer, Rwanda Development Board
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Valentina Lazarov</b> , Senior Sales Director, Sojern

### Wednesday 9th November

10:00 – 10:30	<b>Fernando Santos</b> , Director of Strategic Partnerships, B2B Strategic Partnerships, Musement
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Ambassador Nasise Challi Jira</b> , Minister - Ministry of Tourism of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
11:00 - 11:30	<b>Kairat Itibaev</b> , Managing Director on International Relations and Investments, Tourism Development Support Fund of the Kyrgyz Republic
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Sharon E. Bershadsky</b> , Director of Israel Government Tourist Office, UK & Ireland
12:00 – 12:30	<b>David Perez</b> , CEO of the Tenerife Tourism Corporation
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Jennifer Haz</b> , Director of Communications - Greater Miami Conventions & Visitors Bureau



## Interview Wall

Wednesday 9th November

<b>13:00 – 13:30</b>	<b>Zoë Shurgold</b> , Head of Global PR for the Royal Commission for AIUIa (RCU)
<b>14:00 – 14:30</b>	<b>Juliette Losardo</b> – Exhibitor Director for WTM London
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>William Rodriguez</b> , Costa Rica's new Tourism Minister



## Exhibitor News - Europe

 **Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas: Northern Greece's Sustainable Hotspot**

### High-Res Images: Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas, Greece

While environmental awareness and eco action plans have firmly entered the zeitgeist of the world's best hotels over the past few years, Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas has been dedicated to sustainability since long before many other big players caught up. Everything at this resort is rooted in respect for the region – and a commitment to breathing new life into this astonishing area.

Nestled into a hillside in northern Greece, this resort is the jewel in the crown of Zagori and is designed to provide modern luxury and respite with minimal impact on the environment. Every facet is inspired by the area's rich heritage—from the architecture to the locally influenced and sourced restaurant, Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas offers an authentic cultural experience while simultaneously addressing the locale's environmental needs.

Recently awarded World's Leading Eco-Lodge at the World Travel Awards — the leading standard for excellence in the field of environmental responsibility across hotels — Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas continues to guide honest connections with local partners and a championing of circular economy principles. The result is a resort that walks the walk and wears its credentials with pride.

### Sustainable Architecture

The "green story" of Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas starts from its architecture, demonstrating true Greek architectural craftsmanship. It is built in complete harmony with the surrounding landscape and the local architectural style with only local materials, such as stone and wood decorating the inner and outer part of the buildings. The operational needs of the buildings are both environmentally sustainable and with a very low impact on nature. The installed heat pumps have significantly diminished the use of oil, while only LED bulbs are used for the lighting. For ongoing water usage, wastewater is processed in a high-tech tertiary cleaning system, to ensure that released water is as clean as possible. Synthetics and chemicals are also avoided and the use of either recycled or recyclable materials is prioritised throughout the property.



## Dining

The hotel brings together elements of nature and the local surroundings with the resort's restaurant 'Salvia', which takes its name from the indigenous herb of the Zagori. It specialises in delicious local dishes including exceptional food and wines of the region. Inspired by the natural surroundings of Aristi, local ingredients, typically sourced within a 50-kilometre radius, allow for flexibility and innovation.

Many of the incredible and delicious ingredients used by the chefs at Aristi are grown within the resort's own Greenhouse. Guests that wish to sample the produce right off the plant can head to The Aristi Farm, a natural dining concept which offers unmatched views of the mountains and nearby Vikos Gorge.

Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas ([www.aristi.eu](http://www.aristi.eu), +30 26530 41330) offers nightly rates in a double superior room on a B&B basis from £115 based on 2 sharing.

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## Courmayeur Mont Blanc Announces Culinary & Creative Experiences for 2022/2023 Ski Season

### High-Res Images: Courmayeur Mont Blanc

**Courmayeur Mont Blanc** is delighted to be welcoming back guests for the highly anticipated 2022/2023 ski season. Situated in the heart of the Italian Alps, the luxury family resort is welcoming the return of their renowned culinary and design-led events to compliment their high end ski offering. Guests will be delighted to re-visit Peak of Taste, a culinary month which also welcomes back a selection of tasting dinners in Skyway Monte Bianco – a state-of-the-art cableway reaching the highest point of Italy, at 3,446 metres. Courmayeur Design Weekend will also feature for its third series, welcoming artists from across the globe for a creative and inspiring alpine getaway.

Courmayeur Mont Blanc is delighted to welcome back guests and invite them to immerse themselves in the great outdoors this winter, recentring in a fresh and natural environment. It is the dream destination for travellers looking to experience adventure, get active and embrace nature. December through to all the gloomier months in the UK, makes the renowned ski resort a vibrantly tempting destination filled with fresh-powered slopes, unspoilt trails, and peaceful views from the highest of peaks.

### Skiing, Free Riding and Spectacular Slopes

With over 100 kilometres of slopes and off piste on two sides of the mountain, Courmayeur Mont Blanc provides excellent offerings for experts and beginners alike. The resort offers Ski and Snowboard schools for those wishing to brush up on skills; plenty of chalets and restaurants for excellent accommodation and cuisine; and with the evening opening of the cable car - aperitif or dinner at sunset overlooking Mont Blanc. For those looking to push boundaries, Courmayeur Mont Blanc freeriders can experience adrenaline-fueled runs set amongst incomparable views. Making fresh tracks through Val Veny's winding off piste deep in the fir and larch woods, or racing through the chutes of Vesses, Arp Vieille and Youla is where the excitement begins.





## Courmayeur Announces Second Edition of Peak of Taste

Courmayeur Mont Blanc is welcoming back its culinary month, Peak of Taste, for a second series in March 2023. More than 10 culinary events will take place across the gastronomic resort, and Courmayeur is inviting guests to meet and eat at altitude with some of the most prolific chefs in the region. Events are likely to include Michelin Star curated dining experiences at Super G, an aperitif tasting at the highest peak in Europe – Punta Helbronner Station in Skyway – followed by a descent of 2,173 metres to the Pavilion for dinner in the mountains. Wine tastings and pairings will also take place throughout at recently opened restaurants with fresh and local ingredients.

## Courmayeur Design Weekend

Courmayeur Design Weekend will yet again take place this spring, bringing together Master of Design, creating an unmissable dialogue between exhibitors and visitors in an arena that is as inspiring as it is influential. This natural setting, characterised by snow, mountains and ski runs, will provide the stage for the creativity of both professional and emerging artists. Across the three days, the boutiques of Courmayeur and high end international brands will unite to present a compelling vision of interior design excellence, presenting new-season launches, a series of talks, sharing of ideas and expertise on what it takes to be the best of the best.

For more information visit: <https://www.courmayeurmontblanc.it/en>, call +39 0165 841612 or email [info@courmayeurblanc.it](mailto:info@courmayeurblanc.it).

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## Gatsby Athens Hotel - Bringing Unique Design Concepts to the Greek Capital

### High-Res Images: Gatsby Athens

The newly opened Gatsby Athens Hotel brings a new lease of life and avant garde design to a previous derelict building in the historical centre of Athens. Generating a renewed energy to the Greek capital, the 33-room contemporary boutique hotel balances sophisticated design and personalised, attentive service with exciting food, beverage and entertainment offerings reflecting the best of the cultural and social milieu of its location.

With interiors designed by acclaimed London and New York based design firm, Michaelis Boyd, the hotel's public spaces feature unique entertaining and social spaces to suit every mood – and offer an array of dining possibilities. The architectural design was led by award-winning Greek architectural firm WOA, which has transformed the crumbling 1930's building and police station into an elegant and eco-friendly hotel rooted in the emotional connection between people and buildings. Costas Gagos Architecture and Design Studio has also recently completed the basement to curate an allusion of hidden rooms and secret passageways.

### Architectural Inspiration

WOA's architectural vision balances between the typical Greek modern architectural typology, the contemporary vision of sustainable buildings, creating a meaningful experience for guests. The art deco building has been abandoned for the past four decades, so it was important to convey a sense of timelessness rather than a decade-defining aesthetic. The setting evokes the glamour of mid-1930 Athens, creating a fine balance between old and new. Simple and clean lines have been honoured throughout the design, whilst preserving as much of the original structure as possible but bringing an eco-twist with a natural green façade to the building. To honour its past and future, design intricacies have been employed that complement the building's heritage and surroundings - materials have been reused and the majority of the construction of the hotel was handmade or custom made by local craftsmen.

## Inspiration Behind the Interior Design

Michaelis Boyd has made their name by creating spaces that are emotive, meaningful and thoughtful, taking inspiration from nature and considering light, form and flow.

At the heart of every space is authenticity and the design team have been careful to maintain original elements of the interior architecture whilst bringing the interiors up to date. The result is a contemporary scheme that draws on art deco influences in keeping with the Gatsby legacy. Period details such as the existing white marble staircase were preserved, and materials such as warm woods and veined marbles introduced, chosen for their timeless quality and to patinate over time. Inspired by the natural environment and the local culture and craftspeople, tactility is a key part of the design process. Layered textures are combined with contemporary furniture, touches of reeded glass and gold details for a luxurious finish that compliments traditional Greek design elements, such as the red and green marble, and locally sourced terrazzo.

## Sustainably Designed

The creation of the Gatsby Athens Hotel brought back to life a dilapidated Athenian building which was an eyesore and destined to be demolished. Reusing buildings and avoiding the CO2 emissions from construction is the most sustainable way to build. In addition, the building has been optimized for energy efficiency with the use of new technology and with the addition of high-quality thermo-proofing throughout the structural elements of the building. There has also been an addition of a beautiful natural green façade to the exterior of the building.

Gatsby Athens (<https://gatsbyathens.com/> or +30 21 0321 6001) offers stays from 179EUR / £150 based on 2 people sharing a double standard room on a B&B basis.

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## Hastings Hotels Takes Centre Stage in New BBC Documentary: The Hotel People – Aired in August

### High Res Images: BBC Hotel People - Hastings Hotels , Grand Central Hotel, Belfast, The Culloden Estate & Spa, The Europa

Hastings Hotels took centre stage in brand new TV series, Hotel People, which aired in August 2022 on BBC Two and BBC One Northern Ireland.

The Hotel People is a warm and light-hearted six-part observational series following the team at Hastings Hotels - Northern Ireland's largest family-owned hotel group. The series follows key members of staff across four of their hotels as they bounce back from some of the toughest times the hospitality industry has ever faced – brought about by Covid-19.

After nearly 18 months of closures and uncertainty, the Hastings Hotel Group reopened their doors in May 2021. Having suffered over £16.5 million losses during the pandemic, the team had to find inventive ways to bring back business, fast. But the challenges they faced were great. As they prepared to welcome back guests and events, the managers were faced with staff shortages. And with few overseas guests, finding ways to stand out in the local market has never been more vital for them.



This series followed the staff at all levels in four of the group's hotels, as they pulled together to navigate the new post-Covid version of hospitality. From the housekeepers trying to keep hundreds of rooms spotless while tackling bogus bedbug claims, to bar staff hoping to win the insta crowd with killer cocktails and chefs delivering high-end banquets for hundreds while mending wobbly wedding cakes to keep a big day special.

And we're on the shoulders of the general managers as they welcome everyone from Premiership footballers and A-list actors to boxers and beauty queens while trouble shooting, keeping up staff morale and making sure guests don't notice if there's any drama behind-the-scenes.

Although a hotel chain, each of the four hotels is unique.

The Europa Hotel (one of the most bombed hotels in the world) in Belfast city centre is celebrating 50 years of business. Running this hotel is General Manager and Director of Hotels James McGinn, he is also celebrating his own personal milestone of 25 years at the hotel group. A passionate perfectionist who spends almost every hour at work, he has worked his way up to Director of Hotels, supporting his team of managers while coming up with plans to ensure not just the hotels' survival but their development and continued success.

Also in Belfast city centre, is the group's newest hotel – The Grand Central, which, after a build cost of £53 million, opened in 2017 as the most expensive hotel ever to be built in Northern Ireland. Its Observatory Bar offers panoramic views across Belfast. For General Manager Stephen Meldrum, the pressure is on for the hotel to earn its keep and he has his goal set on achieving five-star status. He must rally his troops to go the extra mile in these turbulent times.

On the outskirts of Belfast, the five-star Culloden Estate and Spa, attracts A-list celebrities, premiership footballers and grand events. Weddings account for 35 per cent of its revenue, and with a backlog of postponed and rescheduled weddings and events in the diary, the team is geared up for a bumper year. However, despite bold new initiatives, like the biggest art and sculpture show ever seen in Ireland and a glamorous champagne bus - staff shortages wreak havoc and as they struggle to maintain the high level of service expected, no one is prepared for the fallout.

At the heart of all these hotels is the staff. As they deal with the fallout of the pandemic, it is their resilience and humour that comes to the fore, as the teams bond like a family determined to face each problem head on, in a fight for survival.

The Hotel People is a Waddell Media production for BBC Northern Ireland and BBC Two, with support from Northern Ireland Screen. The series was made through the partnership between BBC Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Screen and BBC TWO to develop and commission a network factual series from the Northern Ireland creative sector.

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## Sani Resort goes above & beyond with Sani Festival and Sani Academies

### High-Res Images: Sani Resort

As one of the best luxury family resorts in the world, Sani Resort, Greece, continuously expands its offering to cater to all types of family and provide an experience that is like no other. This year, Sani hosted their annual Sani Festival, perfect for cultural families, with performances from Bob Geldof and the legendary Andrea Bocelli. Sani also enhanced their Sani Academies offering, with two tennis legends, Toni Nadal and Carlos Moya, visiting the Rafa Nadal Tennis Centre, Chelsea Football Club legends on site teaching young guests professional tips and tricks at the Football Academy, and the opportunity to learn survival skills at the Bear Grylls Survival Academy. Foodie families were also taken care of at the annual Sani Gourmet festival earlier in the season. With so much more than the standard kids' club, Sani Resort is the perfect place for parents to relax while ensuring their kids are having their own unique experiences.

### Football Hero, Ashley Cole, Makes Special Appearance at Sani Resort's Chelsea FCF Academy

Former premier league football star Ashley Cole made a special appearance at **The Chelsea FCF Academy** to offer guests a series of exclusive coaching. Guests had the opportunity to hone their ball skills by training alongside the ex-Chelsea defender, as he shared his technical skills and expert knowledge at Sani Resort's very own UEFA approved football pitch.

### Tennis Superstar, Carlos Moyá, Returns to Sani Resort's Famed Rafa Nadal Tennis Centre

Sports fanatics had the opportunity to train alongside Spanish tennis superstar Carlos Moyá, Rafa Nadal's primary coach and Technical Director of the **Rafa Nadal Tennis Centre (RNTC)**, for a once in a lifetime summer holiday experience. Tennis fans of all ages had the opportunity to spend a week honing their racket and ball skills with RNTC's expert coaches, including Rafa Nadal's very own tennis coach Carlos Moyá, who made a special appearance at Sani Resort's RNTC.

### Sani Resort Celebrates Gastronomy with its 15th Annual Sani Gourmet Festival

This year, ten different chefs attended Sani Resort for the annual gastronomic festival, including multi-awarded Sotiris Evaggelou from Salonica Restaurant in Thessaloniki who created delicious dishes at Fresco; Liza Keramidou, one of the most talented young pastry chefs in Europe, who has previously worked at Roka and Claridge's, and is now Head Pastry Chef at Pantechnicon; and Adam Kontovas, Executive Chef of Alali restaurant in Santorini and Head Chef of Kobra, who served some fantastic dishes at Asian Restaurant

### Bear Grylls Survival Academy

At the only **Bear Grylls Survival Academy** in Europe, led by a team of expert instructors, guests at Sani Resort were able to follow in the footsteps of Bear Grylls and learn key survival skills amidst the natural beauty of the resort. During the academy, created by Bear Grylls himself, guests learnt how to build shelters, start a fire and signal for help. The perfect experience for outdoor enthusiasts and adventurous seeking children and teens, the academy offered family courses where families worked together to reach base camp, as well as a teen course which included spear making, raft building and night navigation.

Nightly rates at Sani Resort from €178 per night for a Double room on a B&B basis. For more information please visit <https://sani-resort.com/>.

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## Introducing Luxury Apartment Style Living at The Fellows House Cambridge, Curio Collection by Hilton

### High-Res Images: The Fellows House

The Fellows House, Curio Collection by Hilton, is delighted to introduce an apartment-style luxury lifestyle long stay offering in Cambridge. With minimum stays of just one night and tiered pricing options, the collection of 131 self-contained apartments offers a dedicated events programme and onsite leisure features specifically designed for guests staying 7 nights or more. The property is ideal for those looking to reside somewhere where they can “Feel at home, Feel Inspired and Feel like a Fellow”.

### Apartment-Style Living

Inspired by fellows, the property’s room types are all named after people associated with the city and notable Cambridge fellows and include luxury studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments, as well as the Fellows Duplex apartments split across two levels. All apartments include a fully equipped kitchen which provide all utensils required to cook breakfast through to dinner. Similarly, the signature restaurant, The Folio Bar & Kitchen can offer in room dining for those looking for a quiet night in during the busy working week and the property offers complimentary welcome hampers filled with culinary delights for those staying 7 nights or more.

### Extended Stay Discounts & Offers

The Fellows House Cambridge offers significant discounts based on guests’ lengths of stay. With 1 night as the minimum visitor requirement, long staying guests can make the most of tiered price discounts from 14 to 30 nights as well as 30 to 90+ nights. At the same time, long-staying visitors avoid tenancy agreements and contracts, utility bills and pre-arrival deposits – as well as access all the apartment-style hotel’s amenities. The property also features inbuilt technology and connectivity that is aligned to offer business travellers a stress-free experience, such as contactless check in and high-speed Wi-Fi.

Rooms at The Fellows House Cambridge, Curio Collection by Hilton, start from £110 per night for in a Darwin Studio excluding VAT based on a min stay of 90 nights room only. The property is located at 33a Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1UZ. For more information, please visit <https://thefellowshouse.com/> or call +44 (0) 1223 94 94 99. For more information on Curio Collection by Hilton, please visit [newsroom.hilton.com](https://newsroom.hilton.com).

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## Hit the Road with Tuscany Now & More’s New Vintage Car Experiences

### High-Res Images: Tuscany Now & More Vintage Car Rentals

Tuscany Now & More is excited to announce the launch of a selection of vintage car experiences in Italy. Through a new partnership with local classic car company, Sprintage, and inspired by the legendary Mille Miglia Race, guests can now hire a vintage car for a real taste of ‘la dolce vita’ and the road trip of a lifetime. As a true cultural mecca, Italy is the ideal destination for travellers keen to experience history, cuisine, art and explore spectacular landscapes. Tuscany Now & More has been the leading provider of luxury private villa rentals across Italy for over thirty years and is delighted to now offer car enthusiasts and road trippers an iconic Italian driving experience.



### Mille Miglia Classic Car Road Trip

While driving a classic car it would be rude not to explore part of the route of the iconic Mille Miglia, the famous 1,000-mile Gran Turismo figure eight-speed race that ran from 1927-1957. Inspired by the route of the famous race through the Italian countryside, Tuscany Now & More can arrange a self-guided tour for guests along the well-driven route or even for an expert tour guide in a pace car to lead the way, whilst guests cruise behind in their vintage wheels. The villa rental company also has plenty of luxury properties along the route for those who are driving for the marathon, not the sprint.

### Tuscany Now & More Vintage Car Experiences

Tuscany Now & More will arrange for Sprintage to deliver and collect dream cars direct from their luxury villas. The portfolio of iconic vintage cars ranges from a classic red and cream Volkswagen Maggiolino Cabriolet to a 'James-Bond-Grey' Alfa Romeo GT. It doesn't get much better than the thrill of the open road behind the wheel of a classic car. Throw in jaw-dropping scenery and tempting places to linger over lunch – it is set to be a holiday hard to beat.

### A Tuscan Road Trip

This route largely traces the route of the Mille Miglia but for a little pampering, guests can pull over the vintage convertible and unwind in the thermal baths that dominate the central Renaissance piazza at Bagni San Filippo, or opt for something wilder and bathe in the natural hot springs in the woodland outside Bagno Vignoni. Alternatively, drivers can jaunt through Tuscany's terracotta-roofed towns, renowned for Renaissance art and architecture, find a charming little piazza for a morning cappuccino, or take time over a leisurely, indulgent Italian lunch. The route begins at the medieval village-fortress of Radicofani, with its unparalleled views of the Val d'Orcia, and follows the panoramic Via Cassia, an ancient Roman road that leads into the heart of Siena.

Prices start from 550 EUR / £475 for two people and the tour includes car rental from 10.00am to 6.00pm, the cost of petrol/gasoline, car insurance and the price of the pace car with an English-speaking tour guide.

[www.tuscanynowandmore.com/experiences/great-outdoors/mille-miglia-vintage-car-experience-tuscany-edition](http://www.tuscanynowandmore.com/experiences/great-outdoors/mille-miglia-vintage-car-experience-tuscany-edition). For further information and bookings, please contact [www.tuscanynowandmore.com](http://www.tuscanynowandmore.com) or call 0207 684 8884.

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## Walking In the Footsteps Of The Gods: Explore The Myths and Legends of Sicily With Villatravellers

### High Res Images: Villatravellers, Mutica, Le Dimore dell'Etna & Casalnuovo

This autumn, visitors can discover Sicily's one-of-a-kind history when staying with villa rental company, Villatravellers. The island's fascinating past has left a legacy steeped in mythology, which has enchanted visitors for centuries. Ancient Greeks colonised the Italian island around 800 BCE, and it was around this time that their captivating stories began to circulate, soon reaching the vaulted heights of magic and mythology. And as a result, some of ancient Greece's most memorable legends have their origins in Sicily and through Villatravellers, guests embrace these stories today.

As one of the finest villa rental companies in the region – Villatravellers' exclusive locations are second to none, with many located amidst the lyrical landscapes which inspired these far-famed fables. Villatravellers' properties combine the indulgences of a five-star hotel with their dedicated concierge service and without compromising on the familiarities and privacy of home. The brand prides itself in their expert local knowledge across all regions of Sicily.

### **Fountain of Arethusa – Ortigia, Siracusa - Stay nearby at Mutica**

This freshwater fountain is an important symbol of the city of Ortigia and it is believed to be where the nymph Arethusa returned to the earth's surface after escaping from her undersea home in Arcadia. Arethusa was pursued by river god, Alpheus, who was in love with the nymph - but she did not return his feelings. Eventually Arethusa was chased out of Arcadia and turned into a stream in order to escape Alpheus' clutches. This stream ran underground all the way to Siracusa, where the fountain lies today.

### **Polyphemus - Riviera dei Ciclopi - Stay nearby at Le Dimore dell'Etna**

According to the Homer's Odyssey, the Greek hero Odysseus escaped from Polyphemus, a one-eyed cyclops and son of Poseidon, after being cast ashore on the coast of Sicily. Odysseus blinded Polyphemus shortly before escaping on a boat by clinging onto sheep. Out of rage and revenge, Polyphemus began throwing rocks at the boat, severely damaging it but it was too late and resourceful warrior escaped unharmed. It is believed the huge rocks sprouting from the "Riviera dei Ciclopi" (Cyclops' Riviera) in east Sicily are the same stones that Polyphemus threw. The area is now a protected marine area with crystal clear waters.

### **Scylla and Charybdis – Straits of Messina - Stay nearby at Casalnuovo**

The existence of the two monsters, Scylla and Charybdis is the most known legend in Sicily. The two monsters were said to live opposite each other along the narrow strait of water known as Straits of Messina, and whoever or whatever were to pass through would be attacked or swallowed. This legend has been interpreted into many well-known proverbs such as the advice to 'choose the lesser of two evils' – leading, inevitably, to downfall.

For more information on Villatravellers, please visit [www.villatravellers.com/](http://www.villatravellers.com/), email [info@villatravellers.com](mailto:info@villatravellers.com) or call 0044 (0)20 3608 4505.

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## **Introducing Gigi's Bar at Quinta do Lago Resort**

### **High Res Images: Quinta do Lago & Gigi's Bar**

Quinta do Lago is excited to announce the opening of Gigi's Bar, located right by the beach and next to the iconic hotspot Gigi's Restaurant on the edge of the Ria Formosa Natural Park. This is Quinta do Lago's 14th F&B offering, opening during the resort's 50th anniversary and following significant culinary investments. The bar offers breathtaking views, Ria Formosa-inspired cocktails and light-bites created from ingredients sourced in the local area. The launch of Gigi's Bar is complemented by the reopening Gigi's Restaurant, a privately owned and much loved favourite of Quinta guests - which has recently completed a significant renovation., Gigi's Bar

### **New Opening – Gigi's Bar**

Accessible via the resort's boardwalk bridge and complete with panoramic terrace overlooking the beach, Gigi's Bar has been perfectly designed for visitors to bask in the late afternoon sun, a spot to take in the best of the surroundings and connect with nature in a laid-back, convivial setting. Gigi's Bar is dedicated to creating a space in which guests can come together and feel revived by the surrounding nature sanctuary that is the Ria Formosa Natural Park. It aims to inspire and celebrate the local area, providing a relaxed yet vibrant atmosphere until dusk settles.



With appreciation of the natural environment at its core, Gigi's Bar's signature 'Cube' cocktail menu is inspired by the fascinating wildlife of the Ria Formosa. Devised by the bar's expert mixologists, the list includes the Flamingo, a refreshing blend of Froggy B Vodka, Aperol, Peach and Prosecco, or non-alcoholic choices such as the Greenfinch, with Green Tea, Kiwi, Rosemary, Ginger, Lemon. The selection of sharing platters give guests a taste of the local area – largely sourced within the environs of the nature reserve.

### **Gigi Restaurant Renovation**

A much-loved favourite to guests of Quinta do Lago for over 35 years, the famed Gigi's Restaurant has undergone a significant renovation completed in summer 2022, that includes, in addition to Gigi's bar, more accessible features for those with reduced mobility. Led by local architects Essência Criativa, Gigi Restaurant maintains its original character and relaxed charm that has brought back visitors year after year, as well as its renowned menu of fish and seafood, whilst also now feature a larger terrace and stronger sustainable credentials.

### **Recent F&B Investments at Quinta do Lago Resort**

The renovation of Gigi Restaurant forms part of a significant F&B investment programme which is currently taking place across all of Quinta do Lago resort – elevating and diversifying its gourmet offering. These investments include a brand new restaurant, UMAMI, which opened in May 2021. UMAMI is the resort's first restaurant to offer an Asian-fusion style cuisine and is situated within the private resident's club of the RESERVA development, nestled beside the Ria Formosa Natural Park. Similarly, in 2020 Quinta do Lago completed the £1.25M renovation of Casa do Lago, a seafood restaurant situated lakeside and now offering a brand new menu, and refreshed and nautical feel.

For further information on Gigi Restaurant, please visit <https://www.quintadolago.com/en/restaurants/gigis/>.  
For any more information please visit The Quinta do Lago website ([www.quintadolago.com](http://www.quintadolago.com)) or contact on +351 304 502 129.

For more information, please email [quintadolago@grifcopr.com](mailto:quintadolago@grifcopr.com).

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## **Rugby World Cup 2023: France enters the fray!**

600,000 foreign visitors, 660 players, 2.5 million tickets. In 2023, France welcomes the world for the 10th Rugby World Cup in history. With 48 matches scheduled from 8 September to 28 October, the autumn promises to be both sporting and festive in the 10 host cities. Lille, Saint-Etienne, Lyon, Nice, Marseille, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Nantes, Paris and Saint-Denis will be displaying their finest assets to satisfy the fans (and others!) in search of discoveries: gastronomy, conviviality, art of living, cultural heritage and exceptional landscapes.

Following its staging of the 2007 tournament, France is having a second turn at hosting the Rugby World Cup in 2023. Highly anticipated by fans of the oval ball, the event promises to go beyond this and capture everyone's imagination.





## 52 days of festivities

The 10th Rugby World Cup will take place from 8 September–28 October 2023, 200 years after the creation of the sport. What a way to reconnect with the founding spirit of rugby and celebrate the event throughout the seven weeks of the competition. The party will take over France, starting with the 10 host cities where matches will be held.

### “We are rugby, we are 2023”

This is the slogan of the 2023 World Cup. It's not necessary to play or even be a supporter to “be rugby”. Rugby is expressed well beyond the field: more than a sport, it's a state of mind for those who share the virtues of self-sacrifice, collective commitment and respect. The 2023 World Cup wants to raise these values to the roof and invites the 600,000 expected visitors to share them.

### Positive Impact

France 2023 and World Rugby confirmed their mutual ambition, with Rugby World Cup France 2023, to raise the existing standards for international sporting events in terms of social responsibility, inclusion and sustainable development.

Four key engagements have been taken: acting for a sustainable and circular economy; investing in education, training and employment; reducing impact on the environment; fostering inclusion and accessibility for all. More than words, France 2023 and World Rugby have the desire to show tangible proof of their actions, through 15 innovative projects, some already launched and others soon to be deployed.

### Promoting tourism, sharing French Flair

With less than a year to go before the opening match, Atout France, the Regional Tourism Boards and the tourist offices of the event's host cities launch an international campaign to support their tourist attractiveness. The initiative, launched on September 8, exactly one year before the start of the competition, will be deployed in eight markets: The United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Japan, the United States and Italy. This campaign will include a public awareness campaign aimed at providing visibility to all host destinations. It will convey a positive, welcoming and inclusive image of France as a destination. Frédéric Michalak, a former international rugby player with an international reputation, is the ambassador. In addition, throughout the campaign, Atout France is organising, via its network of international offices, marketing campaigns, events for trade and media professionals as well as for the general public.

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## RIU will present its new hotel in London at the WTM

- **The new Riu Plaza London Victoria hotel will be featured at the World Travel Market in London**
- **RIU Hotels will be present at the 2022 World Travel Market on stand UKI301**

RIU Hotels & Resorts will open in the spring of 2023 its first hotel in the United Kingdom, the Riu Plaza London Victoria. The visitors to this year's World Travel Market (WTM) will be able to learn all the details of this new project, as well as more of RIU's new developments, at the company's stand UKI301.



Located in one of London's premium neighbourhoods, the building has been refurbished and turned into a 4-star hotel. Its location, at 1 Neathouse Place, right next to Victoria Station, Westminster Cathedral and Buckingham Palace, is one of its best attributes.

The United Kingdom is a very important market for RIU, as it represents a large proportion of its clientele into Spain and the Caribbean, and where the chain has spent some time seeking the ideal opportunity to expand the city hotel brand.

The WTM will take place from the 7th to the 9th of November at ExCeL London. This year's edition promises to bring back business normality, attracting more exhibitors and visitors than last year's edition which was still affected by the pandemic. Launched in 1980, it has become one of the leading market conventions in the world, gathering the biggest companies of the travel industry.

The building of the new Riu Plaza hotel was originally constructed in the 1960s and it was fully renovated in 1997. The structure and the best aspects of the building have been kept, and the interior has been completely transformed, with attention to design and comfort as well as the latest developments in energy efficiency and sustainable operations. Some of the 435 rooms enjoy spectacular views, and the hotel also has a bar and a restaurant. London Victoria Station is the second-busiest station in the UK, after Waterloo, with an annual footfall of more than 75 million passengers using its underground, train and bus terminals. One of the many advantages of the hotel's location is its direct connection to Gatwick airport in just 30 minutes. The Riu Plaza urban line is characterised for combining all the best possible features and choosing very carefully its locations accordingly.

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## Exhibitor News - Africa

### Lepogo Lodges, South Africa: The Ultimate Bucket List Destination

#### High-Res Images: Lepogo Lodges - Noka Camp

Lepogo Lodges situated in South Africa's Limpopo Province is one of Africa's few entirely non-for-profit safari lodges. Set 100ft up on top of a cliff top overlooking the Palala River, Noka Camp offers guests a magnificent bucket list adventure, gifting visitors with complete tranquillity alongside an unforgettable safari experience. Located in the heart of the South African, malaria-free, Lapalala Wilderness Reserve, and home to the 'big five', Noka Camp provides an array of family-friendly, wildlife experiences that won't be forgotten in a hurry.

Visitors can bask in the unspoilt beauty of the lodge and its private setting whilst engaging in one of the many exclusive experiences offered at Noka camp. From bush camping under the night's sky, exploring the untouched Iron Age site at Melora or admiring the bushman paintings in the cliffs below the lodge, Lepogo Lodges has an experience to suit all.

#### Experiences Available - Exclusive to Lepogo Lodges

Those looking to ensure their trip is an experience of a lifetime can book one of the many experiences exclusive to Lepogo Lodges. Guests can enjoy an afternoon on the terrace admiring the unspoilt wilderness views whilst trying their hand at creating an artistic masterpiece, transforming a holiday into a long-lasting memory. Inquisitive minds can book an educational experience with the local ecologist to gain a more profound sense of the surroundings and habitat. From day to dusk, the in-house expert astrologer can provide guests with a guided tour of the stars and constellations.

Home to more than 60 mammal species, Lepogo Lodges' private game drives, bush walks and water safaris enable guests to observe an abundance of spectacular wildlife throughout their stay. Led by an expert ranger, guests can expect to spot rhino, lion, cheetah, leopard, buffalo, elephant and more, as well as some of the 300 different bird species inhabiting the reserve. As well as game drives and bush walks, curious guests can enjoy a magical night under the stars, traditional bush camping.

Guests looking for rest and respite or to simply unwind after an exhilarating day can choose one of the reinvigorating spa experiences offered in the comfort of their own villa. Families and groups that wish to relax and reconnect together can also book a treetop yoga session and meditate whilst looking out across the breath-taking views of the bush and beyond.

Nightly rates at Lepogo Lodges start from R16,500 (£837\*) per person, per night for a Luxury Clifftop Villa on an all-inclusive board basis. The Family Villa is available from R60,000 (£2,966\*) per night, based on 4 guests. For more information or to make a reservation visit [www.lepogolodges.com](http://www.lepogolodges.com) or email [info@lepogolodges.com](mailto:info@lepogolodges.com). \*Price in pound sterling is accurate according to today's exchange rate.

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### Visit Rwanda and 18 key partners head to London for WTM 2022 accompanied by new Chief Tourism Officer, Michaella Rugwizangoga

The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and 18 of its key industry partners are preparing to exhibit at World Travel Market 2022. RDB's new Chief Tourism Officer, Michaella Rugwizangoga, who was appointed in June, will accompany the partners to the show. Prior to WTM the delegation will also participate in a UK-wide roadshow with travel agent events in Manchester, Glasgow and London the week before the exhibition to update the UK trade on the latest developments and offerings from the destination.

#### The Visit Rwanda partners exhibiting at this year's WTM will be:

Rwanda Chamber of Tourism	Luxury Africa Tours
Rwandair	G-Step Tours
Primate Safaris	Hills in the Mist Tours
International Tours and Travel	Virunga Expedition Tours
King's Safaris	Earth Wanderer
Kingfisher Journeys	Rwanda Eco Company and Sadaris
Palast Tours & Travels	Akagera Rhino Lodge Tours
Wildlife Tours Rwanda	Jambo Tours
Silverbird Tours Agency	Heritage Safaris

The UK is a key source market for Rwanda and so WTM presents an important platform for the East African destination to showcase the diversity of its tourism product from birdwatching and Big Five safaris, to its iconic gorilla and chimp trekking experiences, to the coffee farms and fishing excursions on the shores of Lake Kivu. Furthermore, the destination has plenty to shout about at WTM with an array of new developments arriving this year including...



### Ellen DeGeneres Campus becomes new Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund HQ

In the year that legendary conservationist Dian Fossey would have celebrated her 90th birthday, the brand new headquarters for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, the Ellen DeGeneres Campus, opened its doors near Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park in June of this year. For more than 50 years, the Fossey Fund has been working to help conserve gorilla populations and support the people who share their forest home. In 2017, the organisation embarked on an ambitious project to build a permanent home aimed at accelerating this work. Initiated through a lead gift from American television personality, Ellen DeGeneres, and her actress wife, Portia de Rossi, the Ellen Campus is the vision of the award-winning MASS Design Group and has been named one of Africa's 10 most anticipated architectural projects. Nestled in a reforested landscape containing more than 250,000 native plants, the facility contains state-of-the-art research labs, an education centre and a public museum with a focus on educating and engaging the many stakeholders in modern conservation—students, local communities, conservation partners and visitors on the importance of the Fund's work. Visitors can see artefacts belonging to Dian Fossey herself, learn about the gorillas she studied, enjoy a virtual reality gorilla experience in the panoramic theatre, enjoy a Rwandan coffee at the café, purchase locally-made handicrafts from the museum store and walk a series of trails aimed at educating visitors about the incredible biodiversity of the region. Learn more about the Campus here: [gorillafund.org/ellencampus/](http://gorillafund.org/ellencampus/)

### Sextantio Rwanda opens in May 2022 offering new community-minded island accommodation on Lake Kivu

Located on the secluded Nkombo Island on Lake Kivu which straddles Rwanda's western border, Sextantio Rwanda officially opened on 1 May 2022. The project, the brainchild of philanthropist Daniele Kilgren, welcomes guests to stay in traditional-style huts and enjoy traditional cultural activities. Sextantio Rwanda, also known as the Capanne (Huts) Project, encourages guests to pay via donations rather than set room rates, which goes towards supporting the local community and protecting their cultural heritage and natural landscape. The project brings tourism and profits to the area while maintaining the native social and cultural balance of the community and supporting the local population. Guests staying at Sextantio Rwanda can take a trip on Rwanda's Lake Kivu in dug out tree trunk canoes, enjoy a sunset beverage by the lake, spend the evening by a beachside bonfire and outdoor seafood barbecue, take a guided tour of the island, or take part in traditional night fishing in pirogues. The profits go towards supporting those who need it most, targeting the poorest people who often struggle to pay for the health insurance that is needed in order to treat extremely common conditions. For more information, go to [www.sextantiorwanda.com/en/](http://www.sextantiorwanda.com/en/)

### Nyungwe National Park's canopy walkway opens at night

As one of Africa's oldest rainforests, Nyungwe is home to 25% of Africa's primates with 13 primate species, including the endangered chimpanzees and Angolan Colobus monkeys, along with 300 bird species. The forest's rich biodiversity stems from its endurance during the Ice Age thus attracting species by means of survival. Hanging over the lush hills of the Nyungwe National Park is a canopy walkway suspended 70m high and stretching across 160m, elevating guests high above the treetops. During the day, the experience begins with a hike on the Igi Shigi Shigi trail leading to the walkway, where visitors will encounter an array of butterflies, orchids and birds, many of which are endemic to the area. From spring 2022 the walkway opened to visitors at night, introducing a whole new world of nocturnal wildlife and spectacular night-time views of the forest, lit up by the starry night sky for visitors to experience. For more information, please see [www.visitrwanda.com/interests/canopy-walkway/](http://www.visitrwanda.com/interests/canopy-walkway/)

### Guests can now soar above Akagera National Park with Royal Balloon Rwanda

Royal Balloon Rwanda (RBR) launched a new hot-air balloon experience in Akagera National Park in eastern Rwanda in early 2022 – a first for Rwanda's adventure tourism offering. In partnership with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and Akagera Management Company, RBR operates two hot-air balloons that can accommodate between four and six guests. The park is home to the Big Five as well as zebras, giraffes and hippos and with flights climbing between 100 and 1000 metres visitors will have a picture-perfect bird-eye view of the park, its lakes including Ihema on the border with Tanzania and its wild inhabitants. For details see [royalballoonrw.com/](http://royalballoonrw.com/)

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## SHARM EL SHEIKH HOSTS THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE COP 27 2022

Sharm El Sheikh has consolidated its worldwide reputation by hosting the UN Climate Change Conference COP27 from 6th to 18th November this year.

For its many happy visitors, the area is known simply as “Sharm”, and whatever you’re looking for on holiday, you’ll find it here; whether it’s the natural wonders of land and sea, sun and relaxation, or night-life with the energy of the world’s best in busy Na’ama Bay. You can dive, snorkel or simply paddle in the waters at Ras Um Sid, Turtle Bay.

Ras Mohamed has stunning views across the Red Sea which gave the area huge strategic importance throughout history. Today, it is a beautiful National Park, set up to protect marine and land wildlife and maintain the natural beauty of the area. Not far south of the resort town of Sharm El Sheikh, this protected area is a must-see for visitors interested in the vast array of natural beauty found in and around the Red Sea. With building of any kind prohibited, Ras Mohammed remains a timeless and pristine environment in which nature flourishes.

Mystical oases and the mangrove forests of Nabq. Or stay in Sharm, sample world-class international cuisine at one of the restaurants on the beach.

The hotel facilities in the city are fully prepared and befitting Egypt’s tourism reputation to receive the delegations participating in the conference and all tourists from all countries around the world who enjoy everything Sharm El-Sheikh has to offer.

In addition, Air Cairo, the hybrid operator owned by Egyptair, is implementing an ambitious expansion plan in the European markets connecting Cairo, Luxor, Hurghada & Sharm El Sheikh with the main regional airports in Europe.

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## Ethiopia is ready to welcome international visitors

Ethiopia is prepared to welcome international tourists in the face of new market opportunities created after the negative consequences of COVID-19 pandemic. With its high commitment to maintaining the standard safe travel protocols and procedures as it reopens its doors to tourism and international visitors, Ethiopia is a safe destination to be awarded the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) Safe Travels Stamp – the world’s first-ever global safety and hygiene stamp – following major steps implemented by the Ministry of Tourism last year to ensure safety for residents, travellers, workers and businesses in the tourism value chain and host communities, as Ethiopia reopened its borders to international visitors.

To make travelling to Ethiopia easy, online e-visa services have been in use, and different destinations of Ethiopia daily touched by the regular Ethiopian Airline flights that make travelling easy in Ethiopia. Big anticipation is there to create relationships with suppliers from Europe, Asia, and the African markets at WTM.

Ethiopia has a lot to offer to visitors; a wide range of tourism products supplying both to allocentric, midcentric and psychocentric travellers. From ancient history and age-old absorbing traditions to diverse cultural experiences, from spectacular geographic formations to incredible geological resources, from abundant paleo-anthropological sites, where the oldest hominid ancestor in the world Lucy has been discovered, to immersive expeditions all combined to turn every incident into unforgettable memories.

With the government’s high attention and commitment to the tourism industry, new tourism products like Unity Park, Entoto Park, Sheger Park, Wenchi, Gorgora, and Koyscha tourist destinations have been introduced to the existing tourist destinations.

## About the Country

Ethiopia is an ancient country whose unique cultural heritage, rich history, and remarkable biodiversity are reflected in a tally of nine tangible and four intangible UNESCO World Heritage Sites – more than any other country in Africa. Compelling antiquities include the medieval rock-hewn churches of Lalibela and Gheralta, ruined palaces and temples dating back 3,000 years, the magnificent 17th-century castles of Gondar, and the oldest human fossils unearthed anywhere on the planet. Add to this the beautiful Simien and the Bale Mountains, the spectacular volcanic landscapes of the Danakil Depression, and a wealth of mammals and birds found nowhere else in the world, and its little wonder that Ethiopia has become the most attractive and popular emergent tourist destination in Africa.

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## Exhibitor News - Middle East

 **Enshrining sustainability at the core of national tourism policy is no longer a matter of choice but a necessity, says Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) CEO Raki Phillips.**

“Adopting a strategy that prioritises the benefits to society and the protection of the environment has become a necessity, and both for the sake of our planet and the moral justification of our industry, we could not afford to wait any longer” Phillips is attending World Travel Market (WTM) to showcase Ras al Khaimah’s Balanced Tourism policy: a new and holistic approach that puts environment, culture, conservation, and liveability at the core of the Emirate’s central investment and development strategy.

Balanced Tourism, says Phillips, takes sustainability policy beyond a ban on single use plastics to drive growth while protecting biodiversity, communities, culture, and environment - and it’s a model that will work anywhere.

Known as the Nature Emirate, Ras Al Khaimah is located 45 minutes from Dubai International airport, boasting soaring mountains, dense mangroves and 64km (40 mi) of pristine beach. These natural assets - overlooked by Jebel Jais, the highest peak in the UAE - both underpin and epitomise the Emirate’s tourism principles: promoted but protected, enjoyed but respected.

Destination certification and tourism business accreditation are key to the integrity of Ras Al Khaimah’s Balanced Tourism strategy. Both government and private enterprise in the Emirate are undergoing the workshops and training required to achieve the EarthCheck Destination Standard by the end of 2023 and to become the regional leader in sustainable tourism by 2025.

The EarthCheck Standard provides a rigorous framework within which to benchmark, and continuously improve, responsible and sustainable environmental, cultural, social, and economic outcomes for Ras al Khaimah’s fast growing tourism industry.

Commitment to sustainability doesn’t mean compromising visitor experience. The Nature Emirate, listed in Time Magazine’s World Greatest Places for 2022, is globally renowned for high-adrenaline attractions including the Jais Flight - the world’s longest zipline; the Jais Sledder - a 40kmh, 1.8km toboggan ride; the first Bear Grylls Explorer Camp accommodation outside of the UK and the extraordinary hiking and canyoning at Wadi Shawka.

Empty beaches of white sand, breath-taking mountain scenery and shimmering desert offer an attractive proposition for growing numbers of nature-loving, sustainability-minded visitors. By June of 2022, Ras Al Khaimah had matched its pre-pandemic arrivals, reporting a staggering 232% increase in UK visitor arrivals against the same period in 2021. The footfall puts the Emirate on course to reach its target of 3m annual visitors by 2030.

As the licensing authority for all new hotel developments, RAKTDA is empowered to enforce sustainability standards using the Emirate's own Barjeel Green Building Regulations. New properties subject to these uncompromising regulations include Earth Hotels Altitude, an eco-based pop-up hotel concept set to open on Jebel Jais in Q3 2023; and Saij Mountain Lodge, built by eco-lodge pioneers Mantis and opening on Jebel Jais in Q1 2024.

Similar standards apply to new attractions. Under the Balanced Tourism model, more than 20 new sustainable tourism projects - also known as Attractions with Purpose - are being built across the Emirate. The Scallop Ranch at Al Hamra Marina is one such example, combining recreation with education by offering families the opportunity to dive for, collect, cook, and eat their own seafood while at the same time learning of the history, culture and environmental importance of aquaculture in Ras al Khaimah.

With a rich history dating back to the Bronze Age, Ras Al Khaimah is one of the few places in the world which has been continuously inhabited for over 7,000 years. Ras Al Khaimah boasts a vast array of historical sites with over 1,000 archaeological sites and antiquities including ruins and forts. It is also the only Emirate in the UAE to have four historical locations – Julfar, Shimal, Al Jazeera Al Hamra and Dhayah – to be included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)'s tentative list of Global Heritage Sites, an inventory of sites considered to hold outstanding value from a cultural and/or natural heritage standpoint.

Alongside the visitor experience RAKTDA is focusing on the opportunities, livelihoods, and quality of life of those who work in the Emirate's tourism industry. The Authority was named one of the Best Workplaces for Women and in the Top 10 Great Place to Work in 2021 and 2022 - the only government organisation to be awarded this certification in the Middle East. It was also recognized as the 'Government Entity with the Happiest Work Environment' in the Emirate and 'Happiest Employees in Ras Al Khaimah' by the Sheikh Saqr Program for Government Excellence (SSPGE). Initiatives to enhance liveability include expanded public and inter-city transport across the Emirate, a thorough review of employment regulations and policies, community engagement programmes, employee recognition schemes, a RAK FAM community card, providing travel and tourism employees with special discounts across retail, leisure and activities in the Emirate, and certification for travel and hospitality partners.

"Our world is changing faster than we thought possible and, if it is to survive, the tourism industry not only needs to adapt, but also thrive," said Phillips. "Behaviours and attractions once seen as acceptable, even desirable, no longer fit into the new world order. Our industry needs to evolve to offer travellers a redefined concept of travel, and that redefinition must start at ground level to cover all aspects of our operations."

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## Bahrain prepares to exhibit at WTM 2022

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) is preparing to exhibit at World Travel Market 2022 with a senior delegation in attendance including Mrs Fatima Al Sairafi, Minister of Tourism, Bahrain. The UK is a core overseas European market for the destination and so the show is a key exhibition in the tourism authority's calendar.

BTEA's attendance at WTM 2022 offers an opportunity for the destination to showcase Bahraini culture with traditional art displays taking place on the stand throughout the week such as Calligraphy and Henna. The ever-popular F1 Simulator will also return to the stand challenging visitors to complete a lap of the Bahrain F1 circuit in the fastest time. The destination has plenty to shout about at WTM as Bahrain enters an exciting period for tourism to the Kingdom with a host of new developments arriving this year and in the pipeline including...

### Bahrain launches twice weekly direct flight between Manchester and Bahrain in summer 2022

On 1 June 2022, Gulf Air boosted UK travellers' links to the Middle East with the addition of twice weekly direct flights between Manchester and Bahrain, running all year-round. This route not only makes travel to Bahrain easier from the regional hub city, but also helps put Bahrain on the international map for further trade and tourism opportunities from the UK. [www.gulfair.com/](http://www.gulfair.com/)

### The Address Hotel to open in November 2022

Bahrain is set to welcome The Address Hotel in November 2022 on the Marassi Al Bahrain beachfront. The property will be Emaar Hospitality Group's second hotel to open in the Kingdom, alongside Vida Hotels & Resorts which opened in December 2021. Located on the Marassi beachfront with direct access to the beach and the soon to open Marassi Galleria Shopping Mall, the hotel boasts the perfect balance of tranquillity and vitality. The luxury property will boast 110 rooms and 17 suites, alongside a trendy alfresco, sea-facing pool bar and rooftop infinity pool, offering panoramic sea views. [www.marassialbahrain.com/projects/address-residences](http://www.marassialbahrain.com/projects/address-residences)

### Bahrain to host the 2023 Formula 1 Grand Prix kick-off race

With the 2023 FIA Formula 1 World Championship kicking off early next year, the globally acclaimed Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is readying itself to take centre stage and host the very first race of the season on 5th March 2023. Located at Sakhir, 30km south-west of the capital city Manama, the spectacular venue is designed by renowned curator Herman Tilke and is reputed as one of the most advanced in the world. With the excitement building for the 2023 kick off race, racing fans and thrill seekers are in for a treat to experience the best of Arabian hospitality, heritage and world-class entertainment. [www.bahraingp.com/](http://www.bahraingp.com/)

### Bahrain's first eco-friendly, luxury property to open in 2024

Set to open in 2024, The Mantis Bahrain Hawar Island Hotel & Resort will be the first environmentally-focused resort in Bahrain and, as part of the Accor group, the first Mantis hotel to open in the Middle East. Situated a 45-minute boat ride from mainland Bahrain on the UNESCO-recognised Hawar Island, the property will be surrounded by a wildlife sanctuary home to an array of different species including Arabian oryx, sand gazelles, endangered dugongs, and multi-coloured coral reefs, each a credit to the island's rich natural history. Immersed entirely within nature, the resort offers the chance to stay in overwater villas and sleep under the stars. Ensuring that the island's pristine environment remains undisturbed by the new hotel build, the resort will implement a number of systems to sort and reuse biodegradable waste, and continually rework technologies to reduce its energy and water use. Incorporating luxurious accommodation and adventure activities on its doorstep, alongside authentic and sustainable visitor experiences, the property will be an exciting addition to the destination's accommodation portfolio.

Link [press.accor.com/africa-and-middle-east/accor-and-edamah-introduce-mantis-brand-to-the-middle-east-with-mantis-bahrain-hawar-island/?lang=en](http://press.accor.com/africa-and-middle-east/accor-and-edamah-introduce-mantis-brand-to-the-middle-east-with-mantis-bahrain-hawar-island/?lang=en)

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## Exhibitor News - Americas

### Windjammer Landing Launches Hummingbird Yoga, Full Moon Spa Rituals and Detox & Immunity Retreats

#### High-Res Images: Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort

Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort, nestled on 60-acres of hillside on St Lucia, announces new programming to support its ethos of holistic wellness and beautiful experiences. The new wellness programmes taking place are island-inspired tapping into the tranquillity of the Caribbean and invite guests to connect with their mind, body, and spirit during their travels. From Hummingbird Yoga to Full Moon Rituals and three new Detox, Immunity and Weight Loss Retreats, wellness programmes are available daily and start at £20 per person.



Known for its Mediterranean style offerings, Windjammer Landing boasts guest rooms and villas with waterfront views overlooking Labrolette Bay and the Caribbean Sea. In addition to these specialty programmes, Windjammer Landing offers daily activities ranging from the popular aqua aerobics, nightly live music, paddle boarding, snorkelling, beach volleyball and more.

The new wellness programmes available at Windjammer Landing include...

### Hummingbird Yoga

Practice yoga atop the picturesque hilltop garden surrounded by the lush tropical flora and fauna that attract the island's magnificent and native hummingbirds. Hummingbird Yoga can be booked for private group sessions, but there is also a weekly class that takes place every Saturday at 8am starting from £20 per person.

<https://www.windjammer-landing.com/wellness>

### Full Moon Spa Ritual

The enchanting and intimate Full Moon Ritual package invites guests to an unforgettable evening at the beach including a night boat ride in Labrelotte Bay, a Yin yoga session with guided meditation, signature massage, communal plant-based dinner, and a stargazing session. Full Moon Spa Ritual starts from £100 per person/ £535 per couple. <https://www.windjammer-landing.com/specials/full-moon-ritual>

### Detox, Immunity and Weight Loss Retreats

Windjammer Landing Villa welcomes wellness-weary travellers with three new retreats focusing on Detox, Immunity and Weight Loss.

Prices start at £285 for one day retreats, £755 for three day retreats and £1,220 for five days – all per person.

<https://www.windjammer-landing.com/specials/Wellness-Packages>

### Complete Serenity Package

This private after-hours spa experience includes an afternoon of pampering followed by a private candlelit dinner for two in the spa garden.

Private After-Hours Spa Experience lasts three hours and starts from £620 per couple.

<https://www.windjammer-landing.com/specials/complete-serenity-package>

Rooms at Windjammer Landing start a US\$266.00 per night with Villas starting at US\$448.00. For more information and reservations, visit [www.windjammer-landing.com](http://www.windjammer-landing.com)

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## The Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City

### Opens Friday, February 17, 2023

Designed by Studio Gang, the international architecture and urban design practice led by Jeanne Gang, the 230,000-square-foot Gilder Center project features spectacular architecture inspired by natural Earth processes, inviting exploration of the fascinating,

far-reaching relationships among species that comprise life on Earth and revealing connections across the Museum's rich collections, trailblazing research initiatives, educational programs, and exhibits. The Gilder Center links many of the Museum's buildings, creating a continuous campus across four city blocks, while providing a dramatic embodiment of one of the Museum's essential messages: that all life is connected.

The Gilder Center will feature an immersive theatre that reveals the natural world through spectacular visualisations of scientific data, an insectarium dedicated to the most diverse group of animals on Earth, a permanent butterfly vivarium where visitors can mingle with free-flying butterflies, a publicly accessible library, state-of-the classrooms, and more. For more information on the Gilder Center, please visit [amnh.org/GilderCenter](http://amnh.org/GilderCenter).

The American Museum of Natural History, founded in 1869, is one of the world's preeminent scientific, educational, and cultural institutions. The Museum is one of the top destinations in New York City, welcoming millions of visitors annually.

With a dual mission of scientific research and science education, the Museum encompasses more than 40 permanent exhibition halls, including the Rose Center for Earth and Space and the Hayden Planetarium, as well as galleries for temporary exhibitions, theatres, classrooms, and myriad scientific facilities.

In order to discover, interpret, and disseminate knowledge about the natural world, Museum scientists draw on a world-class collection of more than 34 million specimens and artefacts, some of which are billions of years old, and on one of the largest natural history libraries in the world.

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## Exhibitor News - Asia

### Japan to Welcome International Visitors Beginning October 11

The Government of Japan announced a policy of resuming entry by individual travellers for tourism purposes beginning on October 11. JNTO looks forward to welcoming individual inbound travellers back to Japan with the long-awaited lifting of entry restrictions. The resumption of individual travel to Japan and visa waivers, and the elimination of the daily arrival cap will allow international visitors to enjoy Japan in more ways than in the past two-and-a-half years. These measures are long-awaited news for tourists around the world who have been looking forward to visiting Japan. We are eager to welcome you back!

#### [Remarks by JNTO President SEINO Satoshi]

The Japanese government has at last announced the resumption of individual travel for tourism purposes, visa waivers, and the elimination of the daily arrival cap. I am incredibly pleased to finally welcome back individual travellers after coping with the pandemic during a wait of two-and-a-half years.

In response to the announcement, JNTO will be doing everything we can to provide you with the latest information on coming to Japan so that many tourists can visit and journey throughout our country.

So you can do more than take in Japan's captivating culture, history, nature, and cuisine, we are also working hard on projects for sustainable tourism, adventure travel, and luxury travel. Japan is a highly attractive country not only for tourism, but also for international conferences and incentive travel. With the relaxed travel measures, Japan is fully prepared to host these events.

Along with revelling in the many ways to take in the allures across Japan, now is a time when international visitors can take advantage of shopping opportunities.

Japan has been busy over the past two-and-a-half years with preparations to welcome back everyone. Come see the new Japan. We eagerly await your arrival!

**Reference: Check these resources for more information.**

- **Government of Japan Border Measures** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)
- **Entry and Quarantine** (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)
- **Japan National Tourism Organization** (JNTO UK website)

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